

How Children Fail

John Holt



a Pelican Book



Most children fail to develop more than a small part of their capacity for learning and creating. Afraid, bored, or confused, they fall short; and their failure is sometimes not even noticed.

This book records a teacher's search for the beginnings of an answer to the question why children fail. It developed from the journal which John Holt kept whilst observing children in class. He analyses the strategies children use to meet or dodge the demands which the adult world makes on them, the effect of fear and failure on children, the distinction between real and apparent learning, and the ways in which schools fail to meet the needs of children. His conclusions suggest ways of enriching the experiences of children at school and at home.

'It is possibly the most penetrating, and probably the most eloquent book on education to be published in recent years. To anyone who deals with children and cares about children, it cannot be too highly recommended' – *New York Times*

'John Holt has done a good and necessary job. A very good book indeed' – A.S. Neill

The cover shows a detail of a painting by Eugenio Carmi

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